

TRIBUTE TO PAUL AND SHARON  
ELERICK, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
DEMOCRATS OF THE YEAR

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two extraordinary Americans and distinguished Californians, Paul and Sharon Elerick, who are being honored as Democrats of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee.

Paul and Sharon Elerick met in 1958 at an ice cream shop in Michigan and have been utterly devoted to each other ever since. They have raised two children, Paul Jr. and Denise, who are now raising their own families in Santa Cruz County.

Paul Elerick was elected Chair of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee in 1998 and served in that position until 2003. In that time, he managed three Democratic Headquarters and has contributed mightily to create countless successful campaigns.

Between them, Paul and Sharon Elerick have worked to elect some of the greatest leaders of Santa Cruz County, including Julian Comacho, John Bakalian, Leon Panetta, Bob Taren, Sam Farr, Dale Dawson, Gary Patton, Mardi Wormhoudt, Robley Levley, Ellen Pirie, Ron Ruiz, Bob Lee, Fred Keeley, John Laird and Bill Monning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending to Paul and Sharon Elerick our sincerest congratulations as they are honored as the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee's Democrats of the Year. We are a better community, a better country, a better people and a stronger democracy because of them and all that they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 27, 2003, Louis Rabaglia, my 94 year-old Uncle and a former firefighter, required hospitalization and I had to remain in my District to address related concerns. Consequently, I was unable to cast votes on Rollcalls 6 and 7. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "yea" on Rollcall 6 and "yea" on Rollcall 7.

I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect my intended votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote No. 6 and No. 7. If present I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MR. DALE BUTLER, JR.

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great friend to the 18th Congressional District, the State of California, and our Nation, Mr. Dale Butler, Jr. Dale is retiring from his 33-year tenure with Stanislaus County, and he is a living example of how the American dream is alive and well today.

Dale was raised on the Westside of Stanislaus County, a predominantly agricultural area in the San Joaquin Valley. His first job as a migrant farm worker gave him a work ethic that has followed Dale his entire life. The first major leadership role Dale took on was serving our nation in the U.S. Navy as a personnel specialist from 1962 to 1966. He then took his leadership abilities to the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant as a production control scheduler. In 1971, Dale graduated from California State Stanislaus with a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Following graduation, Dale began his career with Stanislaus County. From 1971 to 1999, Dale held a variety of administrative and management positions with the county. He has been involved in budgets, legislation analysis, recruitment selection, discipline, labor relations, training, and Equal Rights. He has held positions as a Principal Analyst, Senior Management Consultant in the Chief Executive Office, and Senior Personnel Analyst. He has also served Stanislaus County as the Equal Rights Officer from 1972 to 2001. Currently, he serves in the Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office as the Deputy Executive Officer, overseeing purchasing, central services, and fleet services divisions.

Not only has Dale served our Nation, but he has a deep commitment to the betterment of our Central Valley as well. Currently, he is the president of the Stanislaus County Fair Board, a member of the Stanislaus County Latino Community Round Table, the Stanislaus County Hispanic Leadership Council, the Mabuhay Club, and the Modesto Bee's Hispanic Advisory Council. Dale has also founded a number of organizations such as the Stanislaus County Latino Community Round Table, El Concilio de Stanislaus County for the Spanish-Speaking, Inc., and the Stanislaus County Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living. There have been a number of honors bestowed upon Dale such as, the Stanislaus County Latino Community Round Table's Outstanding Latino of the Year, the California Association of Physically Handicapped's Humanitarian of the Year, the American GI Forum's Hispanic of the Year, and the Volunteer of the Year from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Dale is married to Corazon Butler, and together they have three children, Christine, Diana, and Dale III. I am proud to recognize all of Dale's accomplishments, and to call him my friend. Today I call upon my colleagues to help me thank Dale for his service to the Central Valley, and to wish him a very happy retirement.

CLARIFICATION OF CONGRES-  
SIONAL INTENT OF SECTION  
102(g) OF DIVISION H IN H.R. 2673

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify the Congressional intent of Section 102(g) of Division H, Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets, in H.R. 2673, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004.

Specifically, after discussing this Section with my colleague, Mr. GOODLATTE of Virginia, it is my understanding that it is the Congressional intent of that provision to also provide assistance to those producers who sustained eligible losses in the wildfire, known as the McNally Fire, which occurred in southern California in 2002.

I am pleased that this is indeed the Congressional intent of Section 102(g) because, as in the case of the 2003 southern California wildfires, while human action contributed to the genesis of the McNally Fire, the underlying natural conditions were such that it quickly became a natural disaster of enormous proportions and intensity. Among those underlying natural conditions were the weather, specifically drought conditions, and a buildup of undergrowth, dead or dying trees, and brush.

From my discussions with the Gentleman from Virginia, it is my further understanding that Section 102(g) is intended to provide assistance to those producers in the same manner as authorized in the underlying act cited in Section 102(g), Division H of the Conference Report to H.R. 2673, and specifically using the same loss thresholds as provided in that underlying act. The Congressional intent also is to ensure that the Secretary of Agriculture has the flexibility to make payments in a manner that quickly facilitates receipt of this assistance by eligible persons.

I appreciate the assistance rendered by the Gentleman from Virginia in this matter.

A TRIBUTE TO BYRON SHER—PUBLIC SERVANT EXTRAORDINAIRE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished senator of the 11th senate district of California, my good friend, Mr. Byron Sher. My Congressional district overlaps with many of the communities in Senator Sher's district, and this has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with the Senator on numerous issues.

Byron has based his long and productive political career upon the strong foundations of a distinguished academic pedigree. After an ambitious undergraduate career, he earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1952 and then was a Fulbright Research Scholar in New Zealand. Byron went on to teaching positions at some of the leading law schools around the country, including Southern Methodist, University of Southern California and Harvard Law School. Currently, he is an emeritus professor of law at Stanford University.